

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 091935Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8519

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINS

SUBJ: MILITARY TRIAL DEATH SENTENCES DRASTICALLY REDUCED

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 2483; (B) SANTIAGO 2441

1. ORIGINAL DEATH SENTENCES FOR FIVE CIVILIANS TRIED BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNAL IN SAN FERNANDO WHICH WERE FIRST REDUCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT (REFTEL A) HAVE BEEN FURTHER REDUCED TO 18 YEARS IN TWO CASES AND 20 IN REMAINING THREE. ACCORDING TO PRESS MAY 9, DECISION MADE BY COL. JOSE CASTRO, INTENDENTE (GOVERNOR) OF PROVINCE (COLCHAGUA).

2. JUAN DIAZ POPPEMBERG, AGE 24, FORMER LAW STUDENT AND MILITANT SOCIALIST, WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT MAY 8 BY VALPARAISO NAVAL TRIBUNAL FOR COLLECTING DATA ON NAVAL FORCES, INSTRUCTING GUERRILLA TRAINING, AND FABRICATION OF EXPLOSIVES AND ARMS, ALL BEFORE COUP. INVESTIGATION REPORTEDLY PROVED HE HAD BEEN TRAINED IN CUBA. SENTENCE BEING REVIEWED BY NEXT LEVEL NAVAL AUTHORITY. EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO TRACES ON DIUZ.

3. PREFERRING NOT TO WAIT FOR TRIAL, SIX "COMMON
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CRIMINALS" ESCAPED FROM TALCAHUANO JAIL MAY 8 DURING

CURFEW THROUGH 65 METER TUNNEL DESCRIBED AS "VERITABLE GEM." ESCAPEES NOT DETECTED BY ANY SECURITY PATROLS OUTSIDE JAIL. THOUGH CASE SEEMS TO BE UNCONNECTED WITH ANY OF CURRENT TRIALS, WE ASSUME ONE EFFECT MAY BE A TIGHTENING OF SECURITY IN DETENTION FACILITIES.

4. COMMENT: REDUCTION OF SENTENCES FURTHER CONFIRMS A TRND IN GOC TO MINIMIZE INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM, BY COMMUTING DEATH SENTENCES, AT LEAST FOR OFFENSES OF TYPE INDICATED IN THESE CASES, AND BY FIXING THEM AT LESS DRACONIAN LEVELS.

POPPER

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Message Attributes

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